GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4178
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
BIO DIVERSITY IN NORTH EAST
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that North East region is going without rich value addition to Bio-diversity;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard to tap and add value to it;

(c) the details of the items on the agenda that were discussed in the 72nd annual session of the Academy of Sciences & Symposium on Bio-diversity in Shillong;

(d) the share of India in the Bio-diversity business; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase it?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) & (b) The North East Region is not going without rich value addition to biodiversity. The National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP) project undertaken by this Ministry includesaction plans for all the North-Eastern States and the North East Ecoregion. These action plans spell out strategies required for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The other initiatives for conservation of biodiversity in the North East include: setting up of protected area network consisting of National Parks, Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves; establishing Botanical Gardens and Zoological Parks; and identification of wetlands for intensive conservation and management.

(c) The items that were discussed in the 72nd Session of the National Academy Sciences India and the National Symposium on Biodiversity held in Shillong from 25-27 October 2002 interalia included sustainability of the cereal growing systems in the North Eastern Region; medicinal plant wealth of Meghalaya - its conservation, sustainable use and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues; faunal resources and sustainable development; microbial diversity and its sustainable development; access to plant genetic resources - the changing scenario; biodiversity information system for North East India; role of industry in the sustainable utilization of biodiversity; bioresource development of North-East India.

(d) & (e) Considering the multi-sectoral nature of biodiversity, it is difficult to come out with India`s share in the biodiversity business. The Department of Biotechnology has recently established an Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development at Imphal. Objectives of this Institute include bioresource development and their sustainable utilization through biotechnological interventions for the socio-economic growth of the region with the goal of scientific management of bioresources.